Review of gas purchase from Iran

2778. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether India has dropped the plan of bringing natural gas from Iran through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons for dropping the plan; and

(c) the names of the countries with whom India has been contacting to import gas and oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no decision for laying of natural gas pipeline from Iran through Pakistan.

(c) Natural gas can be imported through pipeline and in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Possibility of importing natural gas through pipeline is being explored from Iran, Bangladesh and Myanmar. As regards, import of LNG, there are several initiatives for import of LNG. However, only Dahej LNG Terminal of Petronet LNG Ltd. at Dahej, Gujarat and Shell Hazira LNG projects are progressing. For Dahej, LNG is being imported from Oman. As regards import of oil, it is being, imported from various traditional sources such as Malaysia, Libya, Saudi Arab, some Middle East countries etc.

Royalty on crude Oil

2779. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3007 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2001 and state:

(a) what is the rate of royalty on crude oil and gas in the NELP;

(b) whether these rates are less than the prevailing royalty rates;

(c) if so, whether there is any move by the Central Government to compensate; and

(d) what is the lower royalty rates payable to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 the royalty on crude oil shall not exceed 20% of the sale price at well head and 10% of the value at well head of natural gas obtained by lessee. Royalty from offshore areas is paid to the Central Government and from onland areas to the concerned State Government.

Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), royalty rate for offshore areas is 10% for both crude oil and natural gas. In case of deep water areas (beyond 400 metre isobath), the rate of royalty is 5% for crude oil and natural gas for the first seven years from the date of commencement of commercial production in the field. For onland area, royalty rate is 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas.

(b) and (d) The royalty rate for natural gas for onland areas is the same *i.e.* 10% under NELP as well as for the gas producing areas in main of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), allotted to them on nomination basis. Royalty on crude oil prevailing at present is specific @Rs.850 per metric tonne on *adhoc* basis *w.e.f.* 01.12.99.

(c) The onland blocks under NELP have been offered after obtaining concurrence of the concerned State Government to the fiscal terms of NELP, including royalty rates for oil and gas.

Dividend from overseas investments

†2780. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the public sector oil companies have invested capital in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of companies and the amount invested by each of them so far;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.